



## MICHIGAN CHAPTER

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April 16, 2012

To: Representative Lund and members of the  
Redistricting and Elections Committee

**Sierra Club Urges a NO vote on SB 751, SB 754, and SB 803 – New Photo ID Requirements; Voter Registration by Organizations; Voter Roll Purging**

Dear Representative Lund and members of the House Redistricting and Elections Committee,

We appreciate you taking time to consider our position on SB 751, 754, and 803.

The Sierra Club believes that our members, and all citizens for that matter, deserve to be fairly represented in our Democracy. These bills would make it harder for many of our young and elderly members to vote, and would unnecessarily complicate our efforts to assist with voter registration of our members.

Although at least 35,000 Michigan citizens do not have photo IDs, SB 751 would require ID when voters register and when they pick up absentee ballots. These requirements will deter qualified voters who lack photo IDs from voting. SB 754 establishes new, burdensome regulations on organizations that assist others in registering to vote. This will make it more difficult to encourage Sierra Club members to get registered to vote. SB 751 also creates an inactive voter roll which could seriously impact many of our members who are young and tend to vote sporadically, or any other demographic of sporadic voters. Regardless of how often someone votes, it should be easy for them to vote, and their vote should not automatically be challenged. Together, these bills could prevent thousands of citizens from voting, many of whom are Sierra Club members, which clearly demonstrates its restraints on full democracy.

In the long run, SB 751, 754, and 803 would directly result in added costs to the State of Michigan and private citizens. These bills will make voting less convenient and accessible. We need to increase the number of people participating in our democracy, not reduce it. Democracy works best when every Michigander participates.

**For these reasons, we urge you to vote NO on SB 751, 754, and 803. Votes pertaining to this bill will be included in the Sierra Club's legislative scorecard.**

Sincerely,

Mike Berkowitz  
Legislative & Political Director  
Michigan Sierra Club